

Members of Congress to hear testimony from couples and legal experts on same-sex marriage

WHAT: Congressional field forum to investigate the impact of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), specifically the denial of federal benefits to same-sex couples and their families in Illinois and around the country, and to review DOMA's constitutionality and current court cases.

WHEN: **Friday, October 7, 2011**

10:00am – 11:30am CT

WHERE: City Hall – 121 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago

City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

WHO: Rep. Mike Quigley, Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez, and Rep. Jan Schakowsky will hear testimony from

several witnesses, including four couples and two legal experts,

Camilla Taylor

(National Marriage Project Director and Senior Attorney, Lambda Legal) and

Gail H. Morse

(Tax Attorney/Partner, Jenner & Block, LLP). Among those testifying will be

Trish and Kate Varum

, who were the named plaintiffs in the 2009 Iowa Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage in the state of Iowa.

Ald. James

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Ward, Chicago), celebrating 20 years with his partner, will also testify.

In addition to those testifying in person, several organizations – including the **Human Rights Campaign (HRC)**, **Equality Illinois**, **Heartland Alliance/National Immigrant Justice Center**, CBA LGBT Committee, and the LGBT Immigration Coalition – will be submitting testimony in writing.

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